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February 4, 2009

**RE: Senate Bill 292**

Dear Chairman and Members of the committee:

My name is Aysia Mosley-Jackson. I reside at 74 Starlet Lane in Waterbury, CT. I'm 55 years old. What's the secret to looking so young? Could it be severe onset of menopause? After 15 years of trying to conceive, my husband and I made an appointment with a local reproduction specialist. After many tests, the doctor called me in his office and said, "You have a body of a 55 year old" and told me that my chances of conceiving were slim. How could that be? I was only 34 years old. I was shocked and felt like I had only moments to decide. After all, how old would my body be 6 months from now? Within weeks I was attending a seminar about a procedure I never heard of and attending classes for injections.

During the first IVF attempt, the doctor retrieved 11 eggs; 2 were of good quality and were transferred with no success. The second IVF attempt, 4 eggs retrieved and 1 was of poor quality and was transferred with no success.

After two attempts, countless injections and side effects, including symptoms of hyper stimulation of the ovaries, I was physically and mentally exhausted. Before starting my 3rd IVF attempt, the doctor insisted that my body couldn't continue and suggested that I consider an egg donor or adoption if this cycle was unsuccessful. When I asked if there was anything I can do to make this cycle successful, he said that the medical world hasn't figured out why some eggs implant and others don't (hit and miss). I was desperate and felt that I was missing something. I researched online and read about acupuncture for infertility. When I contacted the nurse to see if this was ok, she insisted that I not deviate from the protocol the doctor set.

With my next scheduled IVF attempt one month away, I had a decision to make. Do I continue down the same road or do I take a turn to improve my chances. That's when I met Dr. Zilahy. What surprised me most was the simple sense of acupuncture "Nurture the soil before planting the seed". Could this be the missing part of my dreams of becoming a mother one day? On October 2nd, 2008, I began two acupuncture treatments a week. Within days of starting my 3rd round of IVF medications, many symptoms I had experienced in other cycles were dramatically less.

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On November 11th, my RE specialist retrieved 9 eggs. The following day I received a call from the embryologist with exciting news. Her exact words were "It's a miracle your results are amazing". Out of 9 eggs, 7 were of excellent quality. As my acupuncture treatments continued, three days later, three eggs were transferred. Would they implant? I am excited to report my dreams came true and I am pregnant with twins.

How could someone go through this entire process and not be offered acupuncture as an option. How could such an expensive treatment as IVF be covered under insurance without the company of such an inexpensive treatment that has been scientifically proven to increase success.

I would ask that Senate Bill 292 be passed so other women in my condition can be spared the added emotional, physical and financial stress that I experienced.

Thank you.